

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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CIA-07 HUNT, HOWARD
SOC 4.01.2 UNDERCOVER

Didn't write book under oath—Hunt

Knight Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA—It appears that E. Howard Hunt, the Watergate "plumber," former C.I.A. agent, and author of more than 50 potboiler novels dealing with international intrigues, cannot even write his memoirs without becoming entwined in subterfuge.

Hunt's book, "Under-Cover," which was published last week by G. P. Putnam's Sons, contains an exciting narrative of the life and strange times of the man who became America's most famous spy. But it also includes a few lies and assorted inaccuracies designed to protect Hunt against his various past perjuries.

Or at least Hunt said it did when he gave what he billed as the real truth in his testimony before the Watergate coverup trial in Washington two weeks ago.

"I DIDN'T write under oath," explained Hunt, who is free from jail pending the outcome of an appeal, and who is on a national tour to promote the book. He discussed the in-

accuracies, which he said were minor changes of dates and times, in an interview.

"My contract stipulated that I write nothing libelous or unlawful," he said, "and I fulfilled my contract. I was naive enough to think that I wouldn't be called to testify at the coverup trial."

"Sophisticated readers realize that one takes a certain amount of latitude in doing one's memoirs. In my case it involves 100 words out of more than 165,000 words."

THE ALLEGED for admitted, as the case may be, errors do involve mainly small points. The more major problems with the book are the omissions of information and material that appear to implicate former Atty. Gen. John Mitchell as the authorizer of the Watergate escapades.

Hunt also alludes to, but omits specific mention of, the memorandum he sent to the White House after he was jailed spelling out the payments and other emoluments he was requesting.